

undergo a drydock exam to satisfy any of the required alternate hull exams.

(g) The Commandant (G-MOC) may authorize extensions to the examination intervals specified in paragraph (a) through (c) of this section.

[CGD 84-024, 52 FR 39652, Oct. 23, 1987, as amended by CGD 84-024, 53 FR 32231, Aug. 24, 1988; GCD 95-072, 60 FR 50463, Sept. 29, 1995; CGD 96-041, 61 FR 50729, Sept. 27, 1996; USCG-2000-6858, 67 FR 21076, Apr. 29, 2002]

**§ 71.50-5 Underwater Survey in Lieu of Drydocking (UWILD).**

(a) The Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI), may approve an underwater survey instead of a drydock examination at alternating intervals if your vessel is—

- (1) Less than 15 years of age;
- (2) A steel or aluminum hulled vessel;
- (3) Fitted with an effective hull protection system; and
- (4) Described in § 71.50-3(a) or (b).

(b) For vessels less than 15 years of age, you must submit an application for an underwater survey to the OCMI at least 90 days before your vessel's next required drydock examination. The application must include—

- (1) The procedure for carrying out the underwater survey;
- (2) The time and place of the underwater survey;
- (3) The method used to accurately determine the diver's or remotely operated vehicle's (ROV) location relative to the hull;
- (4) The means for examining all through-hull fittings and appurtenances;
- (5) The means for taking shaft bearing clearances;
- (6) The condition of the vessel, including the anticipated draft of the vessel at the time of survey;
- (7) A description of the hull protection system; and
- (8) The name and qualifications of any third party examiner.

(c) If your vessel is 15 years old or older, the cognizant District Commander for the area in which the exam is being completed, may approve an underwater survey instead of a drydock examination at alternating intervals. You must submit an application for an underwater survey to the OCMI at least 90 days before your vessel's next

required drydock examination. You may be allowed this option if—

(1) The vessel is qualified under paragraphs (a)(2) through (4) of this section;

(2) Your application includes the information in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(8) of this section; and

(3) During the vessel's drydock examination that precedes the underwater survey, a complete set of hull gaugings was taken and they indicated that the vessel was free from appreciable hull deterioration.

(d) After this drydock examination required in paragraph (c)(3) of this section, the OCMI submits a recommendation for future underwater surveys, the results of the hull gauging, and the results of the Coast Guards' drydock examination results to the cognizant District Commander for review.

[USCG-2000-6858, 67 FR 21077, Apr. 29, 2002]

**§ 71.50-15 Description of the Alternative Hull Examination (AHE) Program for certain passenger vessels.**

The Alternative Hull Examination (AHE) Program provides you with an alternative to a drydock examination by allowing your vessel's hull to be examined while it remains afloat. If completed using only divers, this program has four steps: the application process, the preliminary examination, the pre-survey meeting, and the hull examination. If the vessel is already participating in the program or if a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) is used during the program, the preliminary exam step may be omitted. Once you complete these steps, the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection (OCMI), will evaluate the results and accept the examination as a credit hull exam if the vessel is in satisfactory condition. If only divers are used for the underwater survey portion of the examination process, you may receive credit for a period of time such that subsequent AHEs would be conducted at intervals of twice in every five years, with no more than three years between any two AHEs. The OCMI may waive an underwater survey in accordance with § 71.50-29(d) provided that the interval does not exceed five years between any two underwater surveys. If an underwater ROV is used as the predominate method to examine the vessel's underwater hull